

[<Back](#) [Print](#)

Yonkers Green Policy Task Force News Blast

September 15, 2009

The GPTF Meeting is Tonight at 6:30 p.m.
Riverfest Not a Total Washout
Whole Foods Market Supports Groundwork Hudson Valley
Bus Drivers Come Out in Drove
My Friend The Garlic Scape
Bio-Blitz
Recycling Tip of the Eblast
Guess Who's Coming to Town?
Support Beczak!

Sign Up

[SIGN-UP!](#)

Quick Links

The GPTF Meeting is Tonight at 6:30 p.m.

The following is on our agenda.

1. Guests Julie Chang of Ecology and Environment, Inc., (E & E) to discuss environmental grants; Elyssa Rothe from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) to discuss residential energy reduction programs.
2. Transportation
- Bus grant progress
3. Recycling
- agendas for Master Recycling Classes

All items that may properly come before this Committee.

Please meet in the Ceremonial Courtroom on the 4th floor of Yonkers City Hall.

Riverfest Not a Total Washout

The [City of Yonkers Green Policy Task Force](#) braved buckets of rain to promote all things green and good in our city at [Riverfest](#) this weekend.

Chairman Bob Walters, Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold, and Members Mel Goldstein and Terry Joshi chatted with dozens of festival goers who stopped by the booth to discuss the city's environmental policies.

Meanwhile, Task Force members Loretta Miraglia and Molly Roffman were across town at Yonkers Middle High School talking to 400 school bus drivers about Yonkers anti-idling laws.

Photo cap: GPTF member Mel Goldstein.

Whole Foods Market Supports Groundwork Hudson Valley

[Whole Foods Market](#), the world's largest retailer of natural and organic foods,



will donate five percent of the day's sales from the White Plains location to [Groundwork Hudson Valley's Science Barge](#) on Thursday, Sept. 24.

The science barge is a sustainable urban farm powered by solar, wind, and biofuels, and irrigated by rainwater and purified river water on the Yonkers Pier. It grows fresh fruit and vegetables using recirculating hydroponics and aquaponics.

Come to their 110 Bloomingdale Ave. location between 8 a.m. -10 p.m. armed with your grocery list for everything from bakery, beer, cheese, coffee & tea, floral, grocery, meat & poultry, prepared foods, produce, seafood, and wine to whole body products.

Bon Shopping!

Bus Drivers Come Out in Droves



Hundreds of Yonkers school bus drivers signed pledges to abide by the no-idling law on school grounds at an educational seminar last Saturday to help improve the air quality our children and residents breathe.

Representative from the Yonkers Board of Education and

the [Green Policy Task Force](#) presented material, including samples of the new no-idling signs that are currently being posted on school grounds.

Look for our new signs here:

- 3 at Martin Luther King School
- 1 at Cedar Place School
- 2 at Enrico Fermi School
- 3 at School 13
- 4 at Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School

4 at DiCharo School
3 at School 5
2 at School 15
1 at School 17
2 at School 9
4 at School 23

The driver education initiative is part of a \$300,000 Clean School Bus grant Yonkers received from the EPA in April, 2008 to reduce harmful emissions caused by diesel school buses. The New York State Department of Education also passed a no-idling law in 2008 that Yonkers adopted shortly thereafter. The city spends \$35.9 million a year on school transportation for about 850 runs a day.

To view the anti-idling video, click on the Yonkers Public Schools website [here](#).

My Friend The Garlic Scape

Ask for garlic scapes at the St. John's Farmer's Market in [Downtown Yonkers](#) at Getty Square (1 Hudson Street) any Thursday between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through November 19.

We'll be surprised if Mikey doesn't like them, especially in this pesto recipe.

GARLIC SCAPE PESTO BABY!

Makes about 1 cup

Approximately 10 garlic scapes, finely chopped

1/3 to 1/2 cup finely grated Parmesan (to taste and texture)

1/3 cup toasted pine nuts

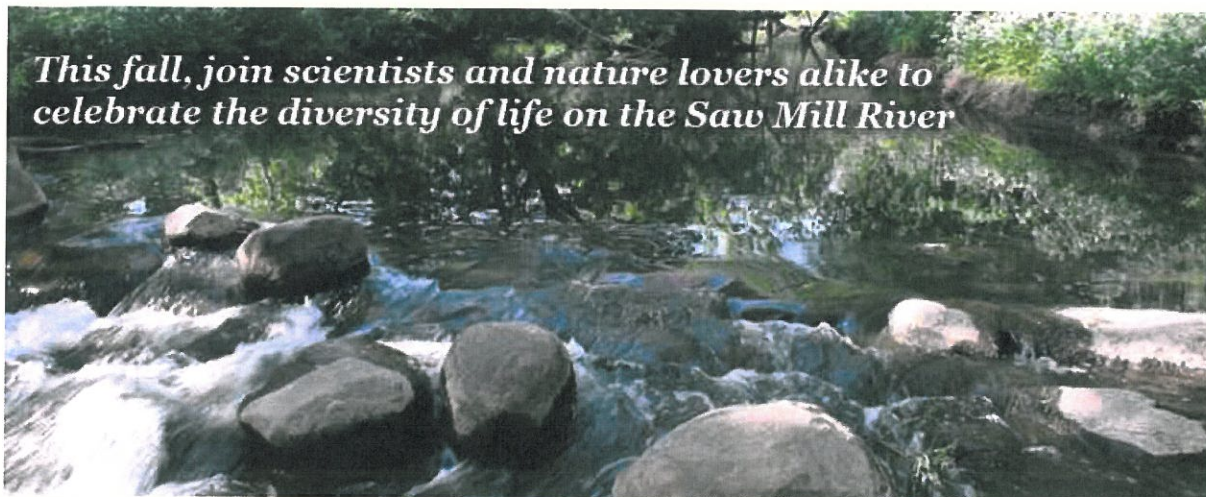
About 1/2 cup olive oil

Sea salt to taste

Put the scapes, 1/3 cup of the cheese, pine nuts and half the olive oil in the bowl of a food processor (or use a blender.) Whir to chop and blend all the ingredients and then slowly add the remainder of the oil. More cheese is always good too. Blend to your favorite consistency-- thick or thin or somewhere in between. Season with salt.

Serve over your favorite pasta.

Bio-Blitz



In an effort to protect the dwindling wildlife we have left in and around the Saw Mill River watershed, [Groundwork Hudson Valley](#) has organized a wildlife headcount, called a BioBlitz, to help educate residents, municipal decision-makers, naturalists, and all others about this precious watershed. Click [here](#) to see the flier.

The public is invited to participate by helping more than 65 scientists and experts who will conduct a 24-hour, around-the-clock inventory of all the living organisms by cataloging found species of plants, animals, insects, fungi, bacteria, etc.

The goal is to educate watershed community residents about backyard wildlife and to inform agencies who work to protect and enhance life within the watershed.

Here's the schedule of scientific lectures, events and workshops, including a junior BioBlitz.

Opening Ceremonies:

Friday, September 25, 4:30 - 5:30 pm - The Science Barge, end of Dock St., Yonkers
Watch Yonkers' municipal officials "release" the scientists into the watershed. Also see a live demonstration of what the seining net pulls in from the river.

Junior BioBlitz:

Saturday, September 26, 10:30am and 12:30pm - Pace University Pleasantville Campus, Pleasantville, NY

K-8 students will participate in a Junior BioBlitz where they'll survey sections of the campus and identify species with nature center docents.

Shadow a Scientist:

Saturday, September 26, Various times and locations.

There will be a limited number of "shadowing" positions for high school students to accompany scientists during their field work.

Nature Walks:

Saturday, September 26, 11:00am and 1:00pm - Pace University Campus, Pleasantville, NY
Docents will lead nature walks of the campus to identify birds, trees, plants, and other "critters."

Lecture Series:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 4:00 pm - Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

Lectures on biodiversity and roundtable discussions.

Roundtable Discussions:

Saturday, September 26, 1:00 - 5:00 pm- Pace University Campus, Student Center, Pleasantville, NY

Throughout the lecture series, municipal officials will participate in targeted sessions that focus on the ways municipalities can incorporate resource protection into village and town land use decisions.

Closing Ceremonies:

Saturday, September 26, 4:00- 5:30pm

Total number of species identified will be announced and participating scientists will be honored.

Email Groundwork Hudson Valley for more information.

Recycling Tip of the Eblast

Think before you toss the leftover water out of drinking glasses. You can easily put that water to good use by using it to water your indoor plants.

Same goes for your shower water. Most people run the water until it warms up before getting into the shower. Get a bucket to put in your shower and catch the water so that it's not wasted. You can use this water for cooking or watering indoors or out.

You can also collect rainwater in buckets. Or, you can capture rainwater from the downspouts on your gutters to use for outdoor watering.

Some people have gone to the extent of saving their sinkwater for watering by permanently opening the drain pipe into a large bucket.

Got a tip? Email Laura.Fahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

Guess Who's Coming to Town?



identifying information

Start packing your papers to feed the Mobile Paper Shredder between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Yonkers Recycling Center, 735 Saw Mill River Rd.

The paper shredder isn't picky. It'll take all documents you want torn into thin strips of shredded paper for recycling such as bills, records, and anything that bears personal identifying information such as name, address, phone number, credit card number or social security number.

Other suggestions include:

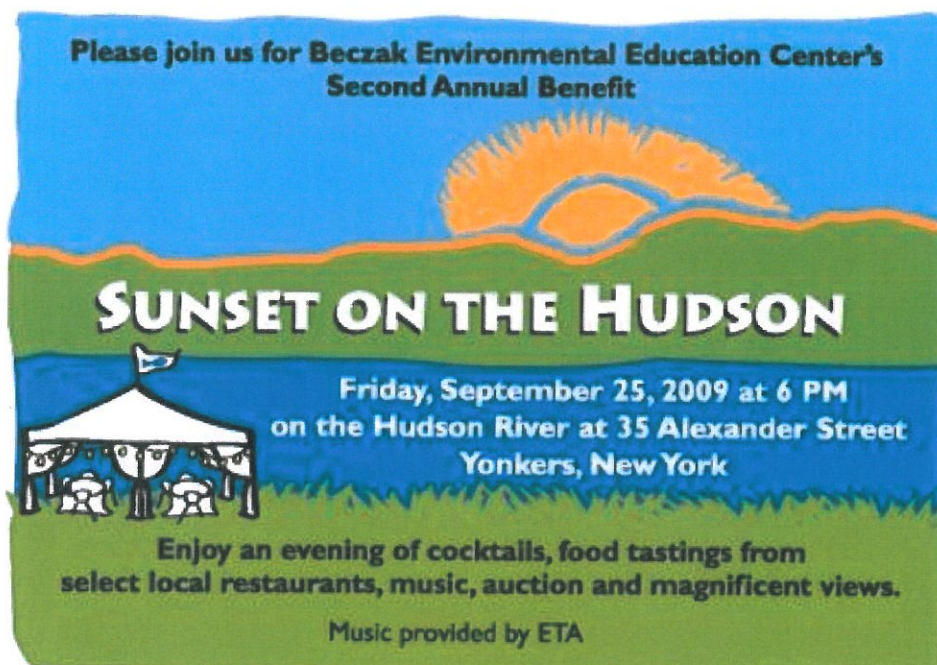
- junk mail
- old utility bills
- driver licenses
- expired credit cards and receipts
- old tax returns or any other documents containing your name, address and other

pre-approved credit card applications

Smart shredders use the wait time to read the newspaper, drink a coffee and chat with neighbors while in line. The best way to reduce lines is to come prepared. This means you've removed all metal clips, fasteners, binders, folders and hard covers and placed the papers loosely in a box. Hard covers -- cardboard or plastic covers on items such as ledger books, marble composition books and hardcover books -- cannot be shredded and will be turned away. Residents must rip pages out from hard cover books for shredding and throw the covers in their regular household trash. Up to four boxes of papers are allowed per person.

For more information about identity theft, call the Dept. of Consumer Protection (914) 995-2155. For questions about recycling, call 211, the Recycling HelpLine.

Support Beczak!



This eblast is provided by the Yonkers City Council's [Green Policy Task Force](#). The Task Force meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on the 4th floor of City Hall. If you know of others in the environmental community who would like to receive this news or attend meetings, please email laura.fahrenthold@yonkersny.gov

From: Council President Chuck Lesnick with Chairman Bob Walters and Coordinator Laura Fahrenthold; District 1 Councilmember Pat McDow with Margaret Setterholm; District 2 Majority Leader Sandy Annabi with Nortrud Spero; District 3 Councilmember Joan Gronowski with Loretta Miraglia; District 4 Minority Leader Liam J. McLaughlin with Terry Joshi; District

5 Councilmember John Murtagh with Molly Roffman; District 6 Councilmember Dee Barbato with Mel Goldstein; Administration's Appointee Joe D'Lando.



Written by Laura Fahrenthold

email: gptf@cityofyonkers.com

phone: 914-377-6067

 **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to clesnick@aol.com by gptf@cityofyonkers.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Yonkers Green Policy Task Force | 40 S. Broadway | Yonkers | NY | 10701